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In re Application of :
Ramakrishnan et al. :
Application No. 10/716,008 :
Filed: November 18, 2003 :
Docket No. 15030US02 :

OFFICE OF PETITIONS
ON APPLICATION FOR
PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT

This is in response to the APPLICATION FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE DETERMINATION OF PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT UNDER 35 U.S.C. 154(b) ACCOMPANYING THE NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE (37 C.F.R. 1.705), filed September 16, 2010. Applicants submit that the patent term adjustment to be indicated on the patent is one thousand three hundred six (1306) days, not nine hundred fourteen (914) days as calculated by the Office as of the mailing of the initial determination of patent term adjustment. Applicants request this correction on the basis that the Office will take in excess of three years to issue this patent.

In addition, applicants dispute the period of reduction of 1 day, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.704(b), for Applicant delay in filing a response on March 2, 2009 to the non-final Office action, mailed December 1, 2008.

To the extent that applicants request reconsideration of the patent term adjustment as it relates to the Office's failure to issue the patent within 3 years of the filing date, the application for patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(b) is **DISMISSED as PREMATURE.**

Knowledge of the actual date the patent issues is required to calculate the amount, if any, of additional patent term patentees are entitled to for Office failure to issue the patent within 3 years. See § 1.702(b). This is true even in this instance where a request for continued examination (RCE) was filed. The computer will not undertake the § 1.702(b)

calculation until the actual date of issuance of the patent has been determined. Likewise, the computer will not calculate any further Office delay under § 1.702(a)(4) or applicant delay under § 1.704(c)(10) until the actual date of issuance of the patent has been determined. As such, the Office cannot make a determination on the correctness of the patent term adjustment until the patent has issued.

Requesting reconsideration of the patent term adjustment to be indicated on the patent under 37 CFR 1.705(b) based on the initial determination of patent term adjustment and a projected issuance date of the patent or even the filing date of the request for continued examination is premature. Accordingly, it is appropriate to dismiss as premature such a request.

Rather than file an application for patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(b) contesting the 37 CFR 1.702(b) calculation at the time of the mailing of the notice of allowance, applicants are advised that they may wait until the time of the issuance of the patent and file a request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment pursuant to 37 CFR 1.705(d). As the USPTO does not calculate the amount of time earned pursuant to 37 CFR 1.702(b) until the time of the issuance of the patent, the Office will consider any request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment due to an error in the calculation of 37 CFR 1.702(b) to be timely if the request for reconsideration is filed within two months of the issuance of the patent. However, as to all other bases for contesting the initial determination of patent term adjustment received with the notice of allowance, applicants must timely file an application for patent term adjustment prior to the payment of the issue fee.¹

To the extent that applicants otherwise request correction of the initial determination of patent term adjustment (PTA), the application for patent term adjustment is **DISMISSED**.

¹ For example, if an applicant disputes both the calculation of patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.702(a)(1) for Office failure to mail a first Office action or notice of allowance not later than fourteen months after the date on which the application was filed and under 37 CFR 1.702(b) for Office failure to issue a patent within three years of the actual filing date of the application, then applicant must still timely file an application for patent term adjustment prior to the payment of the issue fee to contest the calculation of Office delay in issuing a first Office action or notice of allowance. See 37 CFR 1.705(b) and 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(3)(B). A dispute as to the calculation of the § 1.702(a)(1) period raised on request for reconsideration of patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(d) will be dismissed as untimely filed.

On June 16, 2010, the Office mailed the Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) in the above-identified application. The Notice stated that the patent term adjustment to date is 914 days.

Applicants dispute the period of reduction of 1 day, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.704(b), for Applicant delay in filing a response on March 2, 2009, a Monday, to the non-final Office action, mailed December 1, 2008.

While the March 2, 2009 response was timely with respect to avoiding abandonment, it was not timely for purposes of determining patent term adjustment. Per 37 cFR 1.704(b), applicants are responsible for replying to an Office action within three months of the date the Office action was mailed or given to them. The date of receipt in the Office is the salient date for purposes of determining patent term adjustment. If applicants wanted to avoid the 1 day reduction, applicants should have utilized USPS Express Mail Service or faxed the reply prior to March 2, 2009 or mailed the correspondence with sufficient time to ensure that the correspondence was received in the Office (and stamped with a date of receipt) before the expiration of the three-month period. See MPEP 2731.

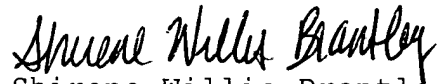
In view thereof, the determination of patent term adjustment at the time of the mailing of the notice of allowance remains 914 days.

The Office acknowledges submission of the \$200.00 fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.18(e) for consideration of the application for patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(b).

Any request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment indicated on the patent must be timely filed within 2 months after issuance pursuant to 37 CFR 1.705(d) and must include payment of the required fee under 37 CFR 1.18(e).

The Office of Data Management has been advised of this decision. This application is being referred to the Office of Data Management for issuance of the patent.

Telephone inquiries specific to this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3230.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Shirene Willis Brantley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shirene Willis Brantley
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions